(c) what are the reasons for which the electricity rates in India are very high as compared to the developing and developed countries; and

(d) what is the plant load factor and transmission loss in public sector and private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) A capacity of about 2132 MW is presently installed in the private sector power utilities. As against an energy requirement of 17525 million units in the country during July, 1988 the availability was 15933 million units. The Central Electricity Authority have assessed an energy requirement of 384764 million units in the terminal year of the Eighth Plan, 1994-95.

(c) and (d) Power tariffs are governed by factors, such as cost of inputs, financial structure and socio-economic policies and considerations. During 1987-88, the private sector power utilities registered a plant load factor of 67.6 per cent in relation to the national average of 56.4 per cent for thermal units. The estimated transmission and distribution losses (All India average) were about 19.82 per cent during 1987-88.

Fraudulent transaction by express groups

3614. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Accounts Depatrment in his Ministry had brought to light the fraudulent transactions and had reported that Shri Ramnath Goenka raised a total of Rs. 23 crore during 1966-71 for his share market speculation and that there were straight borrowings from the public financial institutions including banks and also from the public by way of deposits which were not assured either against the shares of the company, its assets or its debentures, and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps have been taken by Government to stop such repeat diversion of public funds for speculative purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) An inspection of the books of accounts of M|s. Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Private Ltd. was carried out under Section 209 (4) of the Companies Act 1956, during the year 1972-73. An interim inspection report dated 4.11.1972 and final report dated 12.2.1973 were received. It is seen that during the year 1969-70, 4 comapnies of Indian Express Group had with them a sum of Rs. 2307.17 lakhs consisting of Rs. 845.62 lakhs as secured loans, Rs. 732.62 lakhs as unsecured loans and Rs. 728.93 lakhs by way of Public Deposits.

The Company Law Board by an Order dated 4.12.1972 under Section 408 of the Companies Act appointed two Government directors on the Board of Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Private Ltd. for a period of two years. The main grounds on which the said order was issued included, amongst others, (a) the said company had incurred huge losses on purchase and sale of IISCO and other shares; (b) the estimated wiping out of the capital of the Company; (c) the continuous losses of the company since the year ended 30.4.1969; and (d) the company was not in a position to refund the monies collected from the members of the public by way of deposits.

Refinery Status to reliance Industry Patalganga

3615. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reliance Industries has been accorded a refinery status for their PTA plant at Patalganga in Maharashtra and if so; what are the reasons therefor and what will be the loss of excise to exchequer; and